

ASTERIAS HISPIDA PENNANT, 1777, AND URASTER HISPIDA
(PENNANT) FORBES, 1840 (ECHINODERMATA, ASTERIDAE):
PROPOSED SUPPRESSION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS IN
FAVOUR OF LEPTASTERIAS MUELLERI (M. SARS, 1846).
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The pre-Linnean name *hispida* (Linck, 1733 : 31) was adopted by Pennant (1777 : 62, fig. 58) in his description of the nominal species *Asterias hispida*. Pennant's type-material cannot be traced, and his description and figure are completely inadequate for identification. Consequently, according to Forbes (1840 : 95), very different species have been referred to Pennant's *hispida*. Mortensen (1924 : 80) gives *A. hispida* Pennant as a synonym of *Leptasterias muelleri* (M. Sars) without any comments, but in his widely used handbook (1927 : 141), under the discussion on *Asterias rubens* L., 1758, he states: "Possibly also *Asterias* Pennant belongs rather to this species than to *Leptasterias Müller*i". *A. hispida* Pennant is thus a case of a *nomen dubium*, and as it has only been used a few times in the last century it also qualifies as a *nomen oblitum*. It has, however, once in this century been mentioned in a fauna-list (Chumley, 1918) but such a mere listing of the name hardly constitutes use in "primary zoological literature" as defined in recent relevant discussion on Code Article 23b (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 23 : 258).

2. Forbes (1840 : 95-96) re-described the species he considered to conform to Pennant's species under the binomen *Uraster hispida*. Whereas Pennant's *A. hispida* is a *nomen dubium*, this does not apply to *Uraster hispida* (Pennant) Forbes. During a recent study of old and new records of echinoderms in the Isle of Man it was discovered that the only published record of *Leptasterias muelleri*; "under rocks round Castletown Bay" (Bruce, Colman & Jones, 1963 : 240), is exactly the same locality as mentioned by Forbes (1840 : 96) for *Uraster hispida*: "Among limestone rocks at Castletown, Isle of Man". Forbes' description of *U. hispida* conforms with Irish Sea specimens of *L. muelleri*, and the British localities given fit very well with what is known today about the distribution of *L. muelleri*. This new evidence presents a strong case for considering *U. hispida* (Pennant) Forbes, 1840, as a senior synonym of *L. muelleri* (M. Sars, 1846). The specific name *hispida* is still available and Forbes' re-description and use of the name clearly has priority and thus constitutes a serious threat to the well established *L. muelleri*.

3. *Leptasterias muelleri* (M. Sars) as published in the binomen *Astera-canthion Müller*i was first published as a *nomen nudum* (M. Sars 1844 : 169), but has a good foundation in the adequate description (M. Sars 1846 : 56, pl. 8, figs. 38 and 39) and in the syntypes preserved in the Zoological Museum, Univ. Oslo, Norway. It serves as the type-species of the genus *Leptasterias* Verrill, 1866. The specific name *muelleri* (mostly spelt *müller*i) has been widely used in all recent works on echinoderms.

To avoid confusion and to maintain stability of nomenclature, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is therefore asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the following names for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy:
 - (a) the specific name *hispida* Pennant, 1777, as published in the binomen *Asterias hispida*;
 - (b) the specific name *hispida* Forbes, 1840, as published in the binomen *Uraster hispida*;
- (2) to place the names suppressed in (1) (a) and (b) above on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology, the specific name *muelleri* M. Sars, 1846, as published in the binomen *Asteracanthion Mülleri* (type-species of *Leptasterias* Verrill, 1866);
- (4) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology, the generic name *Leptasterias* Verrill, 1866 (: 350) (gender: masculine), type-species, by original designation, *Asteracanthion muelleri* Sars, 1846.

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